



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

March 5, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Natasha Baker *NBaker*
Deputy Superintendent of Education Services and
State School Reform Officer

Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D. *VKeesler*
Deputy Superintendent, Accountability Services

SUBJECT: Public Comment Period for Michigan's Renewal Request for ESEA
Flexibility

In July 2012, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) approved Michigan's request for flexibility in implementing certain requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), also known as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB).

This flexibility approval allows local school districts more freedom in how they use some federal dollars to improve student achievement and close achievement gaps; recognizes schools that are meeting or exceeding achievement goals; ensures that all students have access to effective educators; and includes an accountability scorecard to measure student achievement and growth in schools and districts. Moreover, the approved ESEA flexibility alleviates the impending consequences of the NCLB requirement that 100% of students demonstrate academic proficiency by 2014, replacing the mandate and subsequent consequences with an appropriate timeline and targeted supports to meet student growth and proficiency goals.

The current approval expires at the end of the current (2014-2015) school year.

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The USED has provided a process for states to apply for a renewal of ESEA Flexibility to extend through the 2017-2018 school year. The requirements of the renewal process are outlined in the Renewal Form, which will be posted with a redlined version of Michigan's current approved ESEA Flexibility Request at http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-37818_60094---,00.html starting on **Monday, March 9, 2015**. The Renewal Form provides an overview and reference to changes proposed in the redline document and is a useful tool to understand and respond to the proposed changes.

The Renewal Form and redlined Request will be available starting **Monday, March 9, 2015** for review and public comment through **Monday, March 23, 2015** at 5:00 p.m.

All comments should be submitted to ESEAFlexibility@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance